



Joan Marie (Fairbanks) Roper

December 5, 1958 - February 7, 2019

Joan Marie Fairbanks was born December 5, 1958. At that moment, the world gained a fierce, fun-loving individual. She was hard to handle, a child that pushed boundaries and challenged everyone around her. As she grew, the pattern continued, but she began to challenge people to love themselves. She taught friends and family to make the most of themselves and their life. She was an encourager who loved to laugh, especially at herself, something she claimed was necessary throughout life.

Joan loved to work in her garden, spend time with friends and family, and drink coffee. She had a passion for traveling. She had a captivating charisma that could energize others. Her laugh was infectious.

Joan was a counselor in the Washington State Prison system. She loved the people she worked with, and even the inmates she helped. She truly believed each one had the capacity to make the most of life, and prayed for their successes.

Joan had a saying she got from her mother, "Life is for the living." She understood she would be missed, but she wanted her loved ones to know she expects them to enjoy every second because life is too short to dwell on negativity.

Joan passed away on February 7, 2019 of cancer and kidney failure. She was surrounded by family and people who love her dearly.

Joan is survived by:

Siblings: Becky Connors of Kalispell, MT, Gail Hurst of Kalispell, MT, Tom Fairbanks of Puyallup, WA, Bill Fairbanks of Clinton, NC, and Steve Fairbanks of Bonney Lake, WA. Three children: Erin McAdams of Spokane, WA, Michael McAdams of Colfax, WA, and Audrey Graf of Port Orchard, WA. Seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Events

FEB	Open House	02:00PM - 04:00PM
15	<hr/>	
	Rill's Life Tribute Center	
	1151 Mitchell Ave, Port Orchard, WA, US, 98366	

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Rill Chapel's Life Tribute Center - February 15, 2019 at 06:58 PM



“ Lisa H Hjelmstad lit a candle in memory of Joan Marie (Fairbanks) Roper



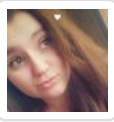
Lisa H Hjelmstad - February 16, 2019 at 05:17 PM



“ Dottie Doheny lit a candle in memory of Joan Marie (Fairbanks) Roper



dottie doheny - February 16, 2019 at 12:53 AM



“ Lorna Parks lit a candle in memory of Joan Marie (Fairbanks) Roper



Lorna Parks - February 16, 2019 at 12:43 AM



“ I had the pleasure to work with Joanie in the Hearings Office at WCC. I, at the time, was the Hearing Escort Officer and Joanie as the Hearing Clerk. She was a very spirited woman and I enjoyed our many conversations and the time I worked with her. Though, through time, we lost touch she will never be forgotten.

Steve Hanson - February 15, 2019 at 05:18 PM



“ I think Joanie was 11 years old when I first met her. She always wore an infectious smile, and I don't think we have ever had a conversation since that didn't leave a big grin on my face.

There's a place in my heart where the sunshine hangs out, and there is where you'll find all my memories of Joanie.

George Breckenridge - February 15, 2019 at 03:02 PM



“ November 7 2018 This morning we are heading into Seattle. My sister-in-law is starting another round of chemo. She has been told it won't help, but for her to not try means to accept her fate, to give up. That is not my sister-in-law. God how I admire and respect her for this. Chemo, under any circumstance, is not pretty. Chemo when you are very near the end and have no strength, when walking to the bathroom exhausts you, well chemo is an even uglier bastard. My sister-in-law has never been weak! Stubborn, hilariously funny, exasperating at times, but never weak. Strong is my sister-in-law, doing it her way is my sister-in-law. As my husband and I travel to get her to her appointment this early morning, while she is slumped over in the seat, exhausted already from the long fight with cancer, I can't help but think how this monster called cancer has taken so much of her, robbed her, beaten her down, but never taken her spirit. The monster may win the war, but by God, cancer, you will never win her spirit. Joanie Fairbanks Roper, I am proud, so proud to be your sister in law.

CANCER, YOU DIDN'T WIN! Her body may not be here but her spirit, it's still here. I feel it, I see it in her kids and grandkids. Joanie, rest now. You've earned it.

Jennifer Fairbanks - February 15, 2019 at 09:35 AM



“ My grandma was such a powerful woman... she was there for everyone. She taught me how to find my self worth. She was always there for me and for a while, was my best friend. We shared many road trips together and they will be memories I will forever cherish. She lived life fiercely and with a smile.

On the way home from one of our road trips, she told me how she wanted to run a half-way house for ex-inmates as they got out of prison. She felt like they would be less likely to go back to prison if they had a place they could go, work, and learn skills. She really cared for those around her.

She gave me a lot of my outlook on life. I miss her so much.



Lorna Parks - February 14, 2019 at 12:12 AM



“ Jennifer Fairbanks lit a candle in memory of Joan Marie (Fairbanks) Roper



Jennifer Fairbanks - February 13, 2019 at 01:33 AM



“ My mom loved her children fiercely. I'm not sure how one person could simultaneously be so frustrating and endearing, but I am blessed to have been her daughter. I hope I possess an ounce of her strength and even more of her charm. She bought me a kitchen towel once that says, "Sometimes I open my mouth, and my mother comes out." Those moments will be even more precious to me now. (Even if they have a potential to cause a little embarrassment, lol)



Audrey Graf - February 12, 2019 at 02:04 PM



“ She was so entertaining, silly and fun to me. I only got mad at her once - when I accidentally ate one of her special brownie. She laughed so hard. I will miss her. RIH

Vince Robinson - February 12, 2019 at 12:41 PM



“ Sherri lit a candle in memory of Joan Marie (Fairbanks) Roper



Sherri - February 12, 2019 at 12:24 PM



“ I remember the first time you came up with all the girls ,I could not help being thankful you four were best friends it was a short time but kept laughing all day at you guys so grateful got to spend the day with you RIP baby girl

Linda Jolly Sherris mom - February 13, 2019 at 01:11 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Sherri - February 12, 2019 at 12:20 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Joan Marie (Fairbanks) Roper.



February 12, 2019 at 10:46 AM



“ Joannie was feisty not unlike myself. She was suffering from the first day we met though you would never know of her pain which she kept to herself. We had fun on visits & thanks to her, I got my first view of the Pacific Ocean. RIP dear! Tell your Mom & my Mom hello for me.



carlette stanley - February 12, 2019 at 07:07 AM



“ Joan was a great co-worker I had ever meet. Joan could tell you how it was and never bat a eye. She was full of spunk and a great person to bring a smile and laugh to everyone around her. I surely will miss her great humor and loving soul.

William Jackman - February 12, 2019 at 02:37 AM



“ One of the best woman I have known. She was so accepting of me and treated me like a son even when Mike and I stole her car lol. She will be missed but never forgotten. Love you Joanie

Buckleigh Brown - February 11, 2019 at 09:01 PM



“ There are no words to describe how much I love this woman and how much she will be missed. She was such an important part of my life. Always there when I needed her. Forgiving of mistakes and always giving unconditional Love Heaven gained an incredible soul.



Janelle Coleman - February 11, 2019 at 07:48 PM



“ " Joan was my Niece, I lived with them when I first came ton Washington. Joan was a rascal then. Always the clown. In her most recent years, we went on a couple of road trips. One to Aunt Maries and one to see Mike once when I went over to Connell and spent a week end. We had fun, she was a lot of fun to be with. There were a lot more times"

Nona Hozhauer - February 11, 2019 at 06:52 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



dottie doheny - February 11, 2019 at 06:44 PM



“ Joannie was my son's other mother. Over Audrey's married life with visits North for holidays, I got to know Joannie and her enthusiasm for life and giving to her family and grandchildren. I was always amazed at her high energy level. She had a young heart and love for those around her. I will miss our spirited conversations about political issues. I will miss her being here. May she rest in peace.



CJ Hanes - February 11, 2019 at 05:53 PM



“ How I loved her attitude. She talked to the men in my relationship class and was brutally open and honest about her life. The mistakes and the consequences and the good choices she made and the rewards. The world lost an amazing woman. Sure she is smiling in on all she loved. Be strong because she was.

Mary Nickle - February 11, 2019 at 05:52 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Joan and Gail



Nona Hozhauer - February 11, 2019 at 05:39 PM



“ Joannie was my Cousin but I will always think of her as my big Sister as we were raised together as one family doing everything together. Joannie was a fighter in anything she did but somehow she never lost her love for life and others, her children, grandchildren, family friends and pets. What about the fur coat oh she loved that coat!! She will be missed by so many and will forever be in my heart!!

dottie doheny - February 11, 2019 at 05:36 PM



“ as little kids all the times ur mom would pile u kids into the car and come here and visit for the day. and joanie wandering around the farm looking at all the animals and such. and playing everything we could imagine, even sneaking icecream out of the freezer and taking bowls and the icecream down to the basement. You will be missed my dear cousin!!!!

Kathy Buckley - February 11, 2019 at 05:33 PM



“ So many memories and I am so thankful that she was my sister. The main thing I would want anyone to know about Joanie is her love for her Children, and all children! She often refered to them as "little humans".

Bill Fairbanks - February 11, 2019 at 05:07 PM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Although you never probably meet your cousin Orville (Tom) Kangas the son of Beverly Smith Kangas and Grandson of William (Bloody Bill) Smith may your beautiful souls will meet. Love to your family Tom & Lynda Kangas Family

Lynda Kangas - February 11, 2019 at 07:02 PM